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Agenda item 116

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part V)

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 116 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/50/842 and Add. 1-3.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 67th-69th meetings, on 12, 13 and 16 September 1996. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.67-69).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Report on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

3. At the 67th meeting, on 12 September, the representative of Tunisia and Vice-Chairman of the Committee reported on the results of informal consultations held on the report of the Secretary-General on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses (A/C.5/50/30).

4. At the same meeting, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision, which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision I).

B. Travel and related issues

5. At the 67th meeting, on 12 September, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision, which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision II).

C. Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

6. At the 68th meeting, on 13 September, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) made a statement and orally proposed a draft decision, which was subsequently published as document A/C.5/50/L.76.

7. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without objection, to postpone consideration of the draft decision to its next meeting.

8. At the 69th meeting, on 16 September, following an exchange of views, in which the delegations of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America, Morocco and Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) participated, and having heard a statement by the representative of the Office of Human Resources Management on points of clarification and a statement by the representative of the Legal Counsel (see A/C.5/50/SR.69), who provided the Committee with a legal opinion on the draft decision, the Committee proceeded to vote on the draft decision, which was adopted by a recorded vote of 55 to 31, with 2 abstentions (see para. 10, draft decision III). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Brunei Darussalam, Turkey.

9. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Mexico and Morocco (see A/C.5/50/SR.69).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on construction projects at Addis Ababa and Bangkok, 1/ also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses 2/ and the report of the Secretary-General on special representatives and envoys, 3/ and decides to defer their consideration to its fifty-first session.

DRAFT DECISION II

The General Assembly takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel, 4/ also takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on review of travel and related entitlements for members of organs and subsidiary organs and staff members of the United Nations, 5/ the report of the Secretary-General on lump-sum option for travel by air in lieu of provision by the Organization of travel tickets and related entitlements on home leave, education grant and family visit, 6/ the report of the Secretary-General on granting of technical assistance to least developed and other developing countries that are members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law 7/ and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 8/ and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Travel in the United Nations: Issues of Efficiency and Cost Savings" 9/ and decides to defer their consideration to its fifty-first session.

1/ A/C.5/50/17.

2/ A/C.5/50/30.

3/ A/C.5/50/72.

4/ A/C.5/47/17, A/C.5/48/3, A/C.5/49/72 and A/C.5/50/22.

5/ A/C.5/47/61, A/C.5/48/14 and A/C.5/48/83.

6/ A/C.5/50/50.

7/ A/47/454.

8/ A/49/952 and A/47/7/Add.5.

9/ A/50/692.

DRAFT DECISION III

The General Assembly reaffirms its resolutions 50/214 of 23 December 1995, 50/230 and 50/231 of 7 June 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to defer any action regarding involuntary separation of staff, in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, until the General Assembly has considered the report of the Secretary-General as requested in resolution 50/214.